



Kazi Hayat



Omar Sani



Shakil Khan



Shakib Khan

Film industry struggling to accept Sohan's demise

As Sohanoor Rahman Sohan, one of Bangladeshi film industry's most beloved names, was laid to rest yesterday beside his wife Priya Rahman. Sohan had passed away from a brain stroke at the capital's Crescent hospital, and his wife passed away just a day earlier. The shock was still not overcome by his colleagues, juniors and fans.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A cloud of grief loomed over Dhaka's sky in remembrance of the man who gave one of the biggest blockbusters in Bangla cinema, *Keyamot Theke Keyamot*, kickstarting the careers of Moushumi and Salman Shah as lead actors.

Moushumi was overwhelmed with sorrow when contacted, her voice clearly shaky from crying. Unable to talk, she passed the phone to Omar Sani, who asked everyone to pray for his departed soul.

"He was the one who named me Shakib Khan. He gave me the name by which millions of people now know me, I will forever be indebted to him," wrote Shakib Khan on his social media. "We talked only a few days ago – he was supposed to go to Japan for further treatment. I cannot believe that he is not there anymore. May the Almighty give him and *bhabhi* peace."

Riaz told The Daily Star that he is lucky to have done a film with him. "He was an artisan when it came to producing stars," he said. "Look at whom he brought to the limelight – two megastars in Salman Shah and Moushumi. Trust me, this is an unforeseen achievement. May the Almighty bless him."

Kazi Hayat is one of the most prolific directors in Bangla cinema. He is also serving as the president of the Directors' Association. "I cannot believe that he is no more. As good



Sohanoor Rahman Sohan

as he was as a director, I believe that he was equally skillful as an organiser. He was there for everyone when they needed it.

90's heartthrob Shakil Khan's first film, *Ghor Amar Behesto*, was directed by Sohanoor Rahman Sohan, and it was a super hit film. He acted in 5 films by the director. "He had to face a lot of challenges because he decided to give chances to new faces," he told The Daily Star. "No one had as much success with debutants as he did, and I am indebted to him for my

career. He will forever live through his works."

Sohanoor Rahman Sohan started his career as an assistant director to Shibli Sadiq in 1977. His first directorial film, *Biswas Obiswas*, was released in 1988, but he truly broke new ground after making *Keyamot Theke Keyamot* in 1993, starring Salman Shah and Moushumi.

Some of his notable works are *Amar Desh Amar Prem, Swajan, Amar Ghor Amar Behesto, Ananta Bhalobasha, Shami Chintai, Amar Jaan Amar Pran, Poran Joliya Jay Re, Koti Takar Prem, She Amar Mon Kereche* and *Lobhe Paap Paape Mrittu*.



Moushumi

Tabu returns to silver screen with spy thriller 'Khufiya'



Tabu and Vishal Bhardwaj's on-screen partnership boasts a history spanning two decades. It all began with the 2003 gangster drama *Maqbool*, in which Tabu starred alongside Irrfan Khan.

Recently, Tabu and Vishal Bhardwaj have reunited once again for the spy thriller *Khufiya*, set to release on Netflix on October 5.

Khufiya is a neo-noir spy thriller adapted from Amar Bhushan's espionage novel, *Escape to Nowhere*. Besides Tabu and Vishal, the film features a stellar cast, including Ali Fazal, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Ashish Vidyarthi.

When asked about the secret behind Tabu and Vishal's explosive on-screen chemistry during the teaser launch, Vishal Bhardwaj candidly replied, "It's love".

Mosharraf Karim to play Hajari Thakur in 'Adarsha Hindu Hotel'?

Mosharraf Karim is reportedly all set to don the role of Hajari Thakur in Arindam Sil's project *Adarsha Hindu Hotel*. The project is based on the iconic novel by Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay and will soon release on an OTT platform.

The novel, originally published in 1940, weaves the captivating tale of Hajari Thakur, a humble hotel cook, who harbours ambitious dreams of owning his hotel one day. Undeterred by opposition from his co-worker Padma and owner Bechu Chakraborty, Thakur begins his journey to establish his own hotel.

A n a n y a Chatterjee is reportedly in consideration to play the character of Padma. While the shooting was initially scheduled to commence in September, it has now been rescheduled to January.



NEWS

Macron's visit may help diversify the ties

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current and former officials for human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

The events strained Dhaka-Washington relationship to some extent.

Prof Syeda Rozana Rashid, a teacher of international relations at Dhaka University, said the European countries, alongside advancing their trade and economic interests, want to promote the values of democracy and human rights.

"Recently, we have seen Emmanuel Macron taking a mediator's role in different conflicts. I'm not sure if something along that line was discussed during his visit," she said.

During the banquet at the hotel InterContinental Dhaka on September 10, Macron said, "Based on democratic principles and the rule of law, in a region facing new imperialism, we want to propose a third way – with no intention to bully our partners or to lead them to an unsustainable scheme."

Hasina on the other hand termed Macron "a breath of fresh air in international politics" and hoped

"the new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace".

Asked what Macron meant by saying "third way", Muniruzzaman said there is a tension in the Indo-Pacific region, with major powers mounting pressure on small countries to be in their blocs.

"France wants to emerge as a third force to support the small states that are under pressure from the major powers. However, there is no idea of how France can do it because it does not have much engagement in this region," he told this correspondent on Monday.

Foreign policy analysts say stepping up cooperation on defence and space technology is good in terms of diversification of sources as Dhaka depends mostly on Beijing for defence purchase.

However, the question remains as to whether the government has conducted any needs assessment for buying 10 planes at a cost of more than \$3 billion, and the second satellite, said Dr Obaidul Haque, an associate professor of international relations at Dhaka University.

"We don't know how economically viable the Bangabandhu Satellite-1 is. Also, do we have enough money to go for such big purchases at this moment?" he questioned.

Obaidul said Macron has spoken very positively of Bangladesh's developments and also on how more French companies should be interested in investing here. "We need to best utilise the momentum created by Macron's visit."

Dr Shariful Islam, an associate professor of international relations at Rajshahi University, said France has vast experience and the technological know-how to harness the blue economy, and Bangladesh can work with the European nation for utilising its marine resources. The same goes for artificial intelligence.

He said Bangladesh should also seriously think about how it can use the potential of the French job market by improving its relationship with the country.

During the visit, Macron took a keen interest in climate change, Shariful said, adding that this can add a new dimension to climate financing for Bangladesh.

I am guilty of that crime. Maybe if I didn't do business, I would have had to live by taking donations from here and there. The business I am involved in is not related to the country. I export abroad."

He added that prices sometimes increase in the country and he will not hesitate to admit that businessmen sometimes take advantage of that.

"How will we control millions of egg producers?" he asked.

The minister said the price of eggs has been fixed. "If eggs are not sold at that price, the government will start importing eggs within a couple of days."

He added he is trying his best to control the prices of essentials.

SC refuses to issue injunction

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the High Court's suo moto rule. They are not a party to the leave-to-appeal petition either.

"How can I issue an order against someone who is not a party to the matter?" the SC asked.

Petitioners' lawyer Azmalul Hossain KC said that his clients want the injunction "mainly against The Daily Star".

"The Daily Star published one news report, but you [the petitioners] published advertisements in every media," observed Justice Enayetur Rahim, referring to S Alam Group's series of advertisements on national dailies refuting the investigative story published by The Daily Star on August 4.

Justice Enayetur Rahim discounted the petitioners' arguments that they are being hounded by the media.

"If they [The Daily Star] had published continuous follow-up reports on the issue, then I could have evaluated this application," he added.

He said the petitioners, if they wish, may place the injunction petition before the full bench of the Supreme Court during hearing of their leave-to-appeal petition on January 8 next year.

Earlier on August 23, Justice Enayetur Rahim set January 8, 2024, for hearing of the leave-to-appeal petition filed by Alam and Farzana against the High Court order that directed the government agencies concerned to conduct an enquiry into Alam's properties abroad.

On that day, he also ordered a status quo on the investigation ordered by the HC until the next hearing.

Tuesday's gag petition was moved by Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Ajmalul Hossain KC on behalf of Alam and his wife, arguing their clients are undergoing a media trial.

The injunction they seek applies to electronic and print media as well as social media.

They also mentioned The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, New Age and SC lawyer Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman by name, and petitioned that the court keep them from publishing or broadcasting any statements, opinions, reports, remarks, or online videos "touching the merit" of the Appellate Division's decision to put on hold the enquiry into Alam's offshore assets.

Although the state was one of

the respondents in the injunction petition, there was no representation from the attorney general's office at the courtroom.

Anti-Corruption Commission's panel lawyer senior advocate Khurshid Alam Khan objected to the petition, highlighting the importance of media in uncovering corruption.

He said the High Court has issued the suo moto rule based on a report by The Daily Star. The HC did not act on any report by Prothom Alo and New Age.

"Then why drag the newspapers who had nothing to do with the report into this? The meaning is obvious – no one is allowed to talk about me. To put it simply, everyone must just keep their mouth shut," he said.

"We at the Anti-Corruption Commission get 50 percent of our information about corruption from the media. They bring it to light and we act on it. If the media is restrained then our work will suffer," the ACC lawyer said.

The lawyers for Alam said the media should complain to the ACC if they find instances of corruption and only report on it if the ACC fails to act.

S Alam's petition is related to an investigation by The Daily Star, titled "S Alam's Aladdin's Lamp," which found that Alam along with his wife has built a business empire worth at least about \$1 billion in Singapore, although there is no record of him taking any permission from the central bank to invest or transfer any funds abroad.

No scope

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In response, the minister said there is no question of paying compensation.

Explaining the issue, Anisul said the position of the law is that as the cases were filed under the old law, trials would be held under the law and the court would hand down punishment.

He said according to article 35 of the constitution, "No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than, or different from, that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence."

Hunter Biden

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criminal trials.

Weiss was elevated to special counsel status in August after investigating Hunter Biden's business dealings for years as the US attorney in the Democratic president's home state of Delaware. Weiss was originally nominated by Trump.

The younger Biden for years has been the focus of unrelenting attacks by Trump and his Republican allies who have accused him of wrongdoing relating to Ukraine and China, among other matters. Hunter Biden has worked as a lobbyist, lawyer, investment banker, and artist, and has publicly detailed his struggles with substance abuse.

Committees in the Republican-led US House of Representatives for months have been probing the Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings. Some party hardliners are pushing for an impeachment inquiry into President Biden.

While Republican lawmakers have collected testimony that Joe Biden at times joined calls with his son's business associates, they have yet to produce evidence that the president personally benefitted.

Departmental case

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the torture incident.

Regarding updates of the investigation, Kamal said they had taken necessary actions immediately and the subsequent process, including the case filing and investigation, will follow its course.

He added, "No one is above the law. Whoever does wrong will be punished."

On September 9, ADC Harun and some other police officials took the two Chhatra League leaders to Shahbagh Police Station around 9:00pm and tortured them for about an hour, BCL leaders alleged.

Earlier on Tuesday, DB Chief Harun Or Rashid alleged ADC Harun was assaulted first by the president's Assistant Personal Secretary Azizul Haque at Birden Hospital that evening. "This should be investigated too," he said.

Azizul's wife, Sanjida Afrin, also an ADC of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, gave The Daily Star a similar account of the Birdem Hospital incident.